

FACT SHEET FAMILY PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Definition

Family Preservation (FP) is an integrated, comprehensive approach to strengthening and preserving families who are at risk of or already experiencing problems in family functioning, with the goal of assuring the emotional, social, educational and spiritual development of children in a safe and nurturing environment.

Background

- State Legislation (AB 546) allowed Los Angeles County in January 1991 to establish a comprehensive group of community-based networks and services to protect children while they remained within their homes. This is called the Family Preservation Approach.
- Los Angeles County established Community Family Preservation Agency in each community to provide comprehensive, coordinated services---currently there are 40 Family Preservation Agencies with 64 sites throughout Los Angeles County.
- Program funded by Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

Community Family Preservation Agencies

- Families referred to Family Preservation Agencies from L.A. County DCFS and Probation Department
- Agencies subcontract with community agencies
- Multi-disciplinary case planning conferences to develop individualized service plans
- Services provided for six (6) months; can be extended to one (1) year.

Family Preservation Core Services

Weekly In-Home Visitation/Counseling
 Parent Training
 Self-Help/Family Support Groups
 Teaching and Demonstrating Homemaking
 Substitute Adult Role Model
 Child Focused Activities
 Therapeutic Day Treatment (Probation youth)
 Transportation

Supplementary and Linkage Services

Child Care
 Education Services
 Health Care Services
 Housing Services
 Mental Health Services
 Regional Center Services
 Special Education
 Employment/Training Services
 Developmental services
 Drug Testing
 Auxiliary Funds
 Domestic Violence Classes
 Respite Services
 Anger Management Classes
 Healthy Start Support Services

Family Preservation Goals

- Assure the safety of children in their home while receiving the Family Preservation Services;
- Empower families to resolve their own problems;
- Enhance family functioning by building on family strengths;
- Identify problems early and resolve them;
- Decrease the need for system resources over time; and
- Break multigenerational patterns of risk for families.

Family Preservation Key Principles

- Child safety is top priority
- Views families holistically and as a unit, in the context of their communities
- Emphasizes family strengths
- Offers flexible package of comprehensive, coordinated community-based supportive services tailored to needs of each family
- Affirms cultural values of family, community
- Involves community in building and providing resources for families

